



*Ricky Edwards, Sheriff (ret.)*

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**Ricky Edwards is a nationally recognized expert in law enforcement, fire, emergency preparedness, and public safety.** Edwards was elected to serve as **Sheriff of Jefferson Davis Parish in Louisiana for twenty years**, from 1992-2012, providing leadership and oversight for Patrol, Investigations, Corrections, Civil and Court Services, 911 Dispatch, Special Operations and Administration for approximately 35,000 residents. Sheriff Edwards served concurrently as the Parish's **Emergency Preparedness Director** from 2003-2012.

Jefferson Davis Parish is located in the Acadiana Region in southwestern Louisiana, between Lake Charles and Lafayette -- the mid-point between New Orleans and Houston. The Parish encompasses 5 cities (Lake Arthur, Elton, Fenton, Welsh, and Jennings, the Parish seat), and the unincorporated areas of Barnsdall, Buller, China, Coverdale, Edna, Fontenot, Foreman's Hall, Hathaway, Illinois Plant, Lacassine, Lauderdale, Panchoville, Pine Island, Raymond, Roanoke, Silverwood, Thornwell, Topsy, Verret, and Woodlawn. During his early career, Ricky served as Captain in the **Jennings City Fire Department**, as **Captain in the City's Police Reserves**, and as **Jennings' elected City Court Marshal** (the executive officer of the court).

Sheriff Edwards was elected **President of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association for 2004-2005**, just as Hurricane Katrina devastated the State of Louisiana, Jefferson Parish, and the entire region, on August 29, 2005: 1833 people died in the flooding, millions were left homeless, and winds and flooding causing \$161 Billion in damage. Sheriff Edwards managed evacuations for thousands of residents in Jefferson Davis Parish during Katrina, and also for evacuees preparing for Hurricane Rita.

After retiring from the Sheriffs' Office, Edwards was selected and appointed by the State's Sheriffs, to serve as **Operations Director for the Louisiana Sheriffs Association, from 2012-2022**. He has provided leadership in state and federal law enforcement organizations, having become a trusted expert in emerging technologies and information systems. As a Member of the **Louisiana Criminal Justice Informations Systems Committee**, Edwards led initiatives to facilitate information sharing among the 64 Sheriffs' offices, and "LACCIE," the Louisiana Criminal and Civil Information Network, designed to share inmate records by and between sheriffs offices and the Louisiana Department fo Corrections. Edwards also serves on the **Louisiana Statewide Interoperable Committee, the Governor's Unified Command Group, and the National Sheriffs Association Technology Committee**.

Edwards is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana (Associate of Science, Computer Technology). He is married to Diane Hebert Edwards; they have 10 children and 20 grandchildren (so far)!